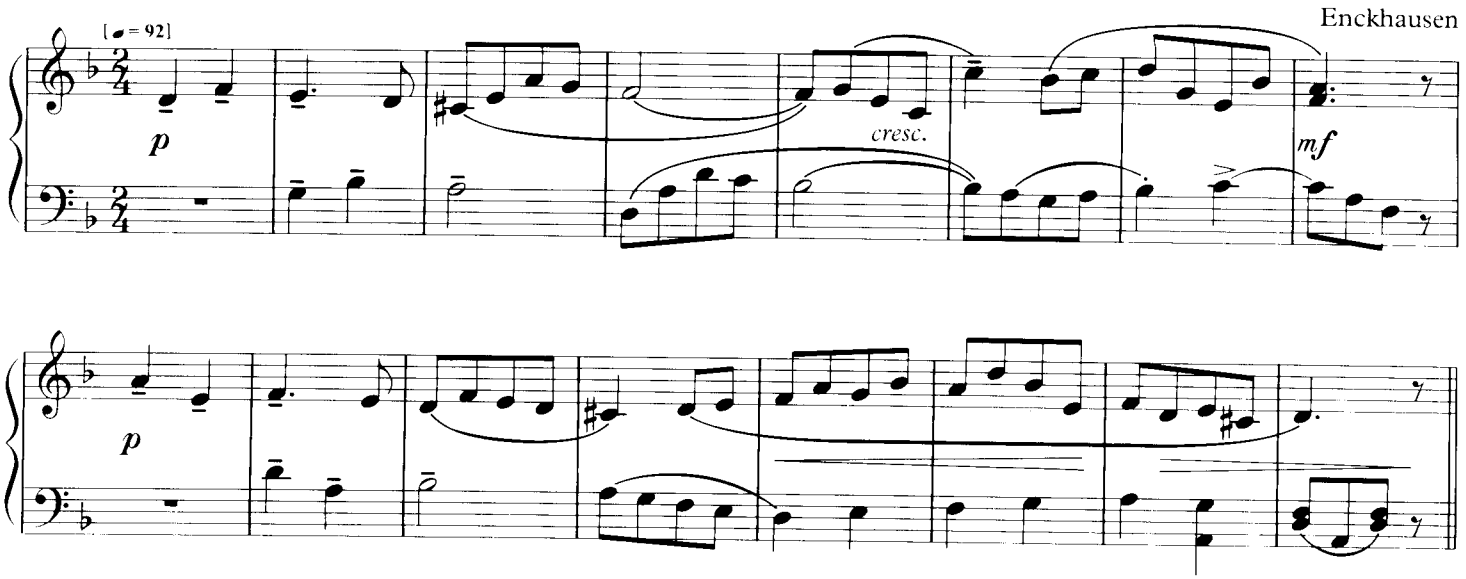
VISIT…

Test 3D: Listening to music with understanding

'To identify certain features of a piece played by the examiner. The features will be confined to contrasted dynamics (*p*/*f*), gradation of tone (*crescendo*/*diminuendo*), articulation (*staccato*/*legato*), recognition of tempo changes (*rallentando*/*accelerando* etc.) and recognition of major and minor tonality, of which the examiner will select one or two and advise the candidate accordingly before playing the piece. Questions on the selected features will then follow. Candidates will be expected to use Italian terms in their answers where appropriate.'

Candidates will now be required to identify features of a piece other than those concerned with tempo, dynamics and articulation, though these will still be included in the questioning. In Grade 3 they are expected to notice whether the piece is in a major or minor key. Some practice towards this will have occurred in Test 3B, though there the candidate would not have been asked whether the melody was major or minor.

Most tests will remain major or minor throughout, but candidates should also be prepared to spot changes which might occur during the piece. For example:



After playing this piece the examiner might say: 'The piece started in a minor key. Did it remain in the minor or did it change?'

He may go on to ask: 'Did you notice where the change occurred?'

Now play the piece on the opposite page, asking the pupil to indicate by a hand signal when it is minor (perhaps by pointing the finger downwards) and when it is major (finger pointing upwards).